

ELEMENTS, C6, COL 1

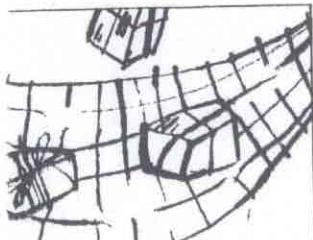
quarterly reporter George Washington Post reporter Eric thors of "Mirage," a history of the "lone nut" and the "conspiracy." The book is due in October.

BY SAM HURDLEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Mary McGrory is on vacation. Her column will resume when she returns.

ING THE S SAFER

IN THE WAKE OF THE TWA
800 CRASH, A WHITE HOUSE
COMMISSION PROPOSED
SWEEPING CHANGES IN
AIRLINE SECURITY. HERE
ARE TWO VIEWS OF THE
COMMISSION'S WORK.



November 22, 1963

Why We Need the Real History of the Kennedy Assassination

By Jefferson Morley

FTER 33 years the discussion of the Kennedy assassination is stuck between the myth of the "lone nut" and the myth of conspiracy. The huge accumulation of facts about Nov. 22, 1963 amounts to something more than trivia but less than historical truth. Consensus, after a third of a century, remains elusive.

Indeed, since the bitter debate around Oliver Stone's conspiratorial 1991 film "JFK," the very idea of a consensus history of the Kennedy assassination has sounded quaint. In general, the notion that one version of history can suit all parties concerned has become embattled since the cultural convulsions of the 1960s. In the particular case of the murdered president, what possible telling could possibly satisfy all? A majority of

Jefferson Morley is an editor in the Outlook section of The Washington Post. This article first appeared in the AARC Quarterly, published by the Assassination Archives and Research Center in Washington, D.C.

Americans, according to polls, are convinced or strongly suspect there was a conspiracy. Many leading opinion makers at news media organizations and some historians assure us that there is no credible evidence of such. And never the twain shall meet.

Yet we are closer than ever to having a firm factual basis for an assassination consensus. The JFK Assassination Records Act, passed unanimously by Congress in 1992, has resulted in the release of hundreds of thousands of pages of assassination-related documents since 1993. A five-member civilian review board, under the capable leadership of a federal judge, John Tunheim, has ordered the disclosure of another 2,000 documents. The board continues to take depositions and to pursue records that the FBI, the CIA, the National Security Agency and other federal entities want to keep secret.

Still, many tough-minded partisans who have dominated both sides of the JFK debate for years say that seeking assassination consensus is a fool's errand. The conspiracy theorists (or the

See KENNEDY, C2, Col. 1

BACK TALK

The latest in an occasional series of reader responses to current topics.

IT'S YOUR TURN

Question: Liquor companies have dropped their voluntary policy of not advertising on TV. So far, the major broadcast and cable networks have declined such ads and the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission is urging independent TV stations to do the same. But some advertising industry

observers predict that TV stations won't say no to the liquor companies' money forever.

Does liquor advertising belong on television? Should the government impose a ban on all alcohol advertising, including beer and wine, as it has with tobacco products? Or is it none of the government's business?

Tell us your views in 200 words or less. We'll publish a sample of the most thoughtful or interesting responses on December 8. Submissions are due December 2. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

Send e-mail to Outlook@Washpost.com or send regular mail to Outlook/Backtalk, The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, NW, Washington DC 20071-5530.

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